



FASHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

VOLUME 25 / ISSUE #7

THE EUROPEANS - FALL/WINTER '98/'99

The tide has finally turned: while there are still elements of strict minimalism versus all-out theatrics, the majority of the European designers have struck a balance between crisp tailoring and femininity. Once again, the juxtaposition of textures and fabrics are all important. There's a seemingly endless variety of knits this season — from space dyes to Lurex, to airy open work crochets. In wovens, stretch is everywhere, adding body and flexibility to crisp wools, techno fabrics, and even

leather. Embellishment is key, with sequins, embroidery, and fur trims (both real and faux) increasing the sense of luxe, and blurring the categories between day and night dressing.

At **CERRUTI 1881** (Signum Int'l) there's a play of casual against tailored, with well-cut pantsuits or superb fur lavished coats paired with chunky sweaters or sequin embroidered underpinnings. The effect is low key elegance delivered with exquisite fab-

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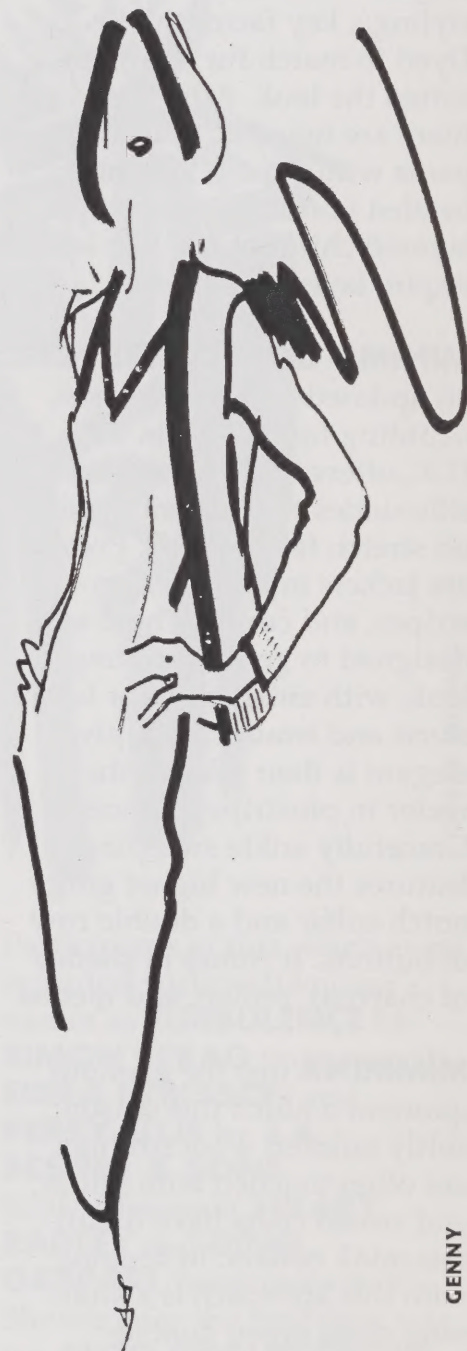
IT'S ALL IN THE MIX - NY FALL PREVIEW

Fall '98 promises to be exciting. Designers are mixing things up in new and interesting ways. Knits are mixed with wovens, texture is juxtaposed against smooth fabrics, and non-traditional embellishment is meant to be worn both night and day. Designers pair shiny silk pull-overs or beaded underpinnings with tailored suits, or pair fur

trimmed knit cardigans with lace embellished charmeuse slip dresses.

Dresses range from A-line flares to slim chemises, shapely sheaths, coat-dresses and shirtdress styles. Every collection includes a strong dressy element, including day-to-

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GEMMY

rics, such as pure wools, 4-ply silk, crushed velvet, lambskin, and lace. Jackets are cropped, high gorge, double-breasted and either body skimming or elongated. Skirts are short and slit, long and wrapped, while pants play up modified classics and the newer wide leg trousers. Coats are especially elegant with menswear d styling a key factor this season. Dyed to match fur treatments soften the look. After dark there are tuxedos, drawstring pants with stretch tulle or beaded underpinnings, triple layered chiffon tops, and long sequin layered dresses

MINIMO BY VICTOIRE JON,

an updated career collection, debuting for Fall '98 in the U.S., offers tailored, crisp silhouettes with an emphasis on stretch fabrications. Pivotal are jackets in flannels, pinstripes, and covert. These are designed to go for a suiting look, with either short or long skirts and trousers. Simply elegant is their take on the reefer in pinstriped flannel. Gracefully ankle sweeping, it features the new higher gorge notch collar and a double row of buttons. It comes in shades of charcoal, brown, and mocha.

MIMMINA ups the glamour quotient a notch this season: softly tailored wool suitings are often touched with glitter, and tweed coats have luxurious mink collars. In keeping with this approach is a stunning moss green double-breasted pantsuit with wide cuffed trousers. The jacket has a crystal embroidered flower spray on one of the lapels that gives the appearance of real



diamonds. This embellishment is also used to striking effect on a simple gray flannel sheath. After dark there's a chic long deep ruby velvet coachman coat and mid-calf dress, belted in bright red satin.

INDIVI BY ATSURO

TAMAYA (The Showroom), is a fashion forward diffusion collection aimed at a hip downtown crowd. Fabrics include wool flannel, double knits, and matte jersey in an urban palette of charcoal, olive and black with touches of red and cream. The look is wearable yet edgy, with clean,

flat-front pants, long skirts, and even a stylish take on cargo pants. Asymmetrical looks, ruching, and draping are carried over from Tamayo's designer collection. Standouts include his slightly askew shirred-front cardigan that is meant to be worn with flannel hipster pants, and the structured coat, in a stretch fabrication.

Designer Richard Tyler has added a welcome dose of reality to **BYBLOS**. The concept is suit driven sportswear with many fabric and color options. Very directional is

NORTHERN EXPOSURE -

MONTREAL'S ICE FOLLIES

"Being a part of Montreal Fashion's On Ice gives us great exposure." Debbie Shuchat, designer for Como.

Their hockey team may have come up short at Nagano, but Canada's leading designers brought home the gold in New York when they presented the third edition of Montreal Fashions on Ice. This annual event, staged at Rockefeller Center's ice rink, and offered by the Quebec Government House, with additional support from Montreal Tourism Partners, Hydro Quebec, and the Canadian Consulate in New York, has become a must-see show in the fashion press and retailer's calendar.

Canada, home to a \$10.5 billion fashion industry (of which 30% is produced in Quebec's business capital, Montreal) has become a fast rising star in global fashion circles with their unique merging of European and American design influences. As first time participant, Debbie Shuchat, designer for Como, observed, "Canada has developed a reputation for quality, while the preferential duty rates translate to great savings for the U.S." Gisele Paul, designer and president of Dino Gaspari,

noted that the show was presented at "a perfect time of the year for stores to get a preview of the collection."

Co-hosted by Montel Williams and actor Jean Leclerc, the ice dance extravaganza was divided into ten "scenes," choreographed by Canadian, Olympic gold medalist, Moira North, and modeled by skaters from the Ice Theater of New York. The fashions presented encompassed every category from coats, to evening, and activewear

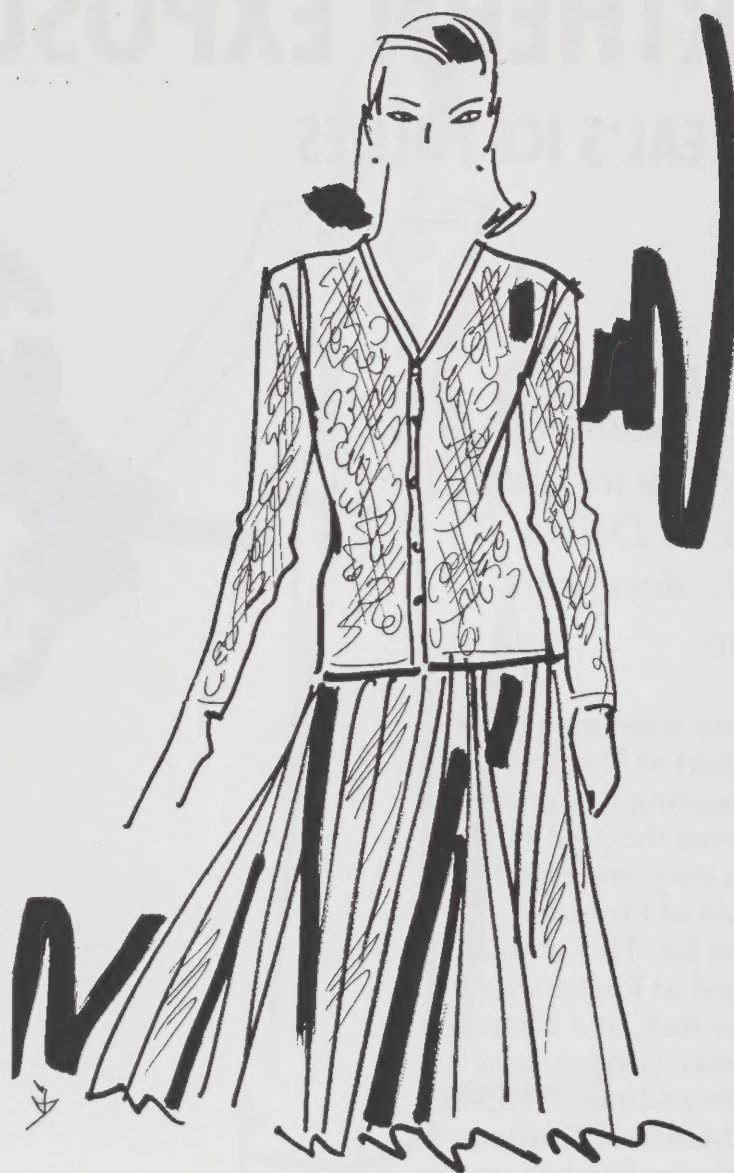


OSCAR LEOPOLD

Participants at this year's event included such well known names as **TURBULENCE** by **SIMON SEBAG** (menswear), **ERIKA ERIKSSON** and **PERRY ELLIS** by **J.A. BESNER & SONS** (childrenswear), **HILARY RADLEY** and **DINO GASPARI**, (womenswear). Showing for the first time was the **ALGO GROUP**, **OSCAR LEOPOLD**, **COMO** and **CHLOROPHYLLE HI TECH**.

dinner looks, plus novelties like brocades and metallics. In sportswear, knits are everywhere—especially space dyed knits. Frock coats, elongated jackets, reefers, slim boxy styles and body skimming jackets are key. Important are placket fronts, updated Norfolk belted styles, and asymmetric closures. Skirt lengths look current when placed just at the knee or below, while the newest version has knife or accordion pleats.

At **REVUE**, the emphasis is on cool missy styling. Novelty jackets come in pig suede, textured plaid and boucle, with slim skirts, pants and silk sweaters to work back. "Rain Forest" is a striking group in evergreen and champagne. The strongest look plays up a zip-front chenille plaid jacket, clean front suede pants and stretch charmeuse shirts. "Brown Sugar" features warm tones and a mix of textures. Standouts include a suede jacket, pinstripe pants and the directional boiled wool jacket with zip-front and contrast detail. Jacket driven novelty suitings are important at **JOAN VASS USA**. Relaxed easy shapes segue from work to weekends. Standouts include her espresso or graphite cotton/stretch nylon herringbone blazer and barn jacket over darted waist, slim pants. Sweaters, as expected are wonderful, in particular a turtleneck with pouch pocket in black or berry jersey fleck, and a shawl collared wrap cardigan. Short and long pleated skirts coordinate.



PLENTY by TRACY REESE

For sheer inventiveness, combined with an artist's eye for color, nothing compares to **CAROL HORN's** sweaters and knits. This season there are viscose boucle yarns in subtle earth tones, "nu" cashmere sparkles in brie, dill, and dark truffle, and wool/peluche comes in vegetable shades like peppercorn. Airy "spider web" knits come in latte, mushroom, dusty orchid, and anthracite. At **PLENTY**, designer Tracy Reese mixes stretch lace sweaters with knee skimming, slim and pleated skirts in iridescent camel, pale jade or terra cotta taffeta. Washed velvets and charmeuse dresses and sepa-

rates with chiffon overlays, mix it up in aqua, puce or black in this very feminine collection. Even a four-button slim coat is tailored in cut velvet. This romantic attitude is carried over in her signature **TRACY REESE** collection. A heather brown ruched jersey sweater with crystal embroidery works over new flared pants. Other highlights include a geranium wool sheath with scattered floral embroidery, and her cropped black lamb's wool cardigan and schoolgirl pleated skirt, in a bias black/charcoal plaid, trimmed with velvet piping.

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Leading off the show were evening creations from **ALGO GROUP's** four divisions. Standouts included EN **FRANCAIS** designer **HUEY WALTZER's** black, stretch velvet slip dress with fur hemline; a refined ivory satin, off-the-shoulder gown with re-embroidered lace sleeves by **ALFRED SUNG** for **LORI ANN**; and a short, belted cocktail dress with jet beaded illusion yoke by **SUSAN GABELLINI** for **ALGO**. The grand finale came from **JULIE DUROCHER**, designer for **JS COLLECTIONS**. Truly a show stopper, it consisted of a long sweeping, black ostrich feather trimmed, red velvet coat topped off with a black feather trimmed top hat!

HILARY RADLEY offered her signature boiled wool and double-faced wool coats, jackets and novelty rainwear. Outstanding were her unlined toppers, in delicious shades of soft peach, avocado, blue, and white, which had all the non-chalant ease of a sweater. **OSCAR LEOPOLD**, one of Canada's leading lights in fashion forward leather and suede outerwear dazzled the audience with a full length, double-breasted, belted black leather trench, luxuriously trimmed with Mongolian lamb; a mock crocodile embossed leather blazer; and a cute cropped jacket, in tan with white lamb collar and cuffs.

One of Montreal's most illustrious names in high fashion outerwear, **DINO GASPARI**, upped the ante this season with the addition of innovative and luxurious hand knitted fur

trims (by **PAULA LISHMAN**). This was shown to perfection in designer **GISELE PAUL's** chic 3/4 drawstring waist topper, in putty cashmere, trimmed with a brown knitted fur collar. The drama increased with a romantic and hooded short cape in wine cashmere, edged all-around with matching fur trim.

CHLOROPHYLLE HI TECH took a casual approach to their line of high performance outerwear in environmentally friendly 100% reclaimed cotton and recycled fleece. Shown were some terrific all purpose jackets in fun brights for the whole family. Designer **DEBBIE SHUCHAT** for **COMO** rounded out the show with her take on investment dressing for the contemporary woman. Her belted, wrap coat in gray flannel was a standout in a generally strong career driven

group; while her black stretch velvet mock turtleneck dress was simplicity itself for day-into-dinner dressing.

Topping off this fashion spectacular was the performance by ice dance pro champions, Susanna Rakkamo and Petri Kokko, to Celine Dion's rendition of "My Heart Will Go On." This was a perfect ending to a glamorous evening. Merci Montreal!

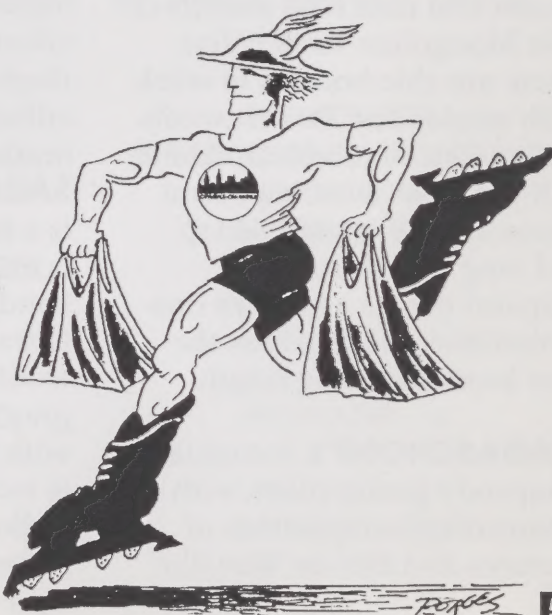
* These Montreal designer collections for Fall/Winter '98/'99 will be available in better department and specialty stores throughout the United States. For further information on this and other upcoming Canadian fashion events, contact: Denise Bigo, Quebec Government House, 1 Rockefeller Plaza, NY 10020 or call: 212 843-0972.

Come Join Us

THE ANNUAL NEW YORK FASHION AND BEAUTY INDUSTRIES SALUTE TO CITYMEALS-ON- WHEELS, CHAIRED BY RUTH FINLEY, PUBLISHER OF FASHION INTERNATIONAL, WILL TAKE PLACE ON MAY 4, FROM 6:00-9:00 P.M., AT MARTINI'S RESTAURANT, 810 SEVENTH AVENUE, NYC. THIS YEAR, THE HONOREE IS JUDITH LEIBER AND THE HONORARY CHAIRMAN IS PAULINE TRIGERE.

THE EVENT FEATURES GOURMET CUISINE AND A RAFFLE FILLED WITH WONDERFUL PRIZES DONATED BY THE FASHION AND BEAUTY MANUFACTURERS. THE TICKET PRICE IS \$150. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE CHARITY!

IF YOU WISH TO PURCHASE TICKETS, OR TO DONATE A RAFFLE PRIZE TO HELP THIS FINE ORGANIZATION, PLEASE CONTACT: CITYMEALS, 212-687-1290 OR FI, 212-289-0420.



COLIN BAER's clothing emphasizes fine tailoring and subtle details. He starts off strong with three essential jacket bodies – a three-button blazer in navy pinstripes is divine, as is his take on the "leisure" shirt jacket, in wheat or ink velveteen. Another key item is the knee-skimming black, slinky knit skirt and the edgier flare style. Shirts are updated with 3/4 sleeves, and offered in a variety of fabrics. Rounding out the season are important cotton/nylon blend knits in navy or black with faux fur collar treatments.

KAREEN SMITH takes a classic, semi-couture approach. There are striking wool boucle coats, blazers, frock coats and flat-front pants featuring stretch wool, in soft cocoa/sage. In the same wool fabric is a fun variation on the hooded pullover stretched out to dress length! Day or night, Kareen proposes a reversible two for one, spaghetti strap dress in matte jersey. Great looks in the

CARMEN MARC VALVO

COLLECTION are wool crepe suitings in espresso, camel and burgundy, especially a darted sheath and coat with detachable Mongolian lamb collar. There are chic boucles to work with suedes and stretch wools in chocolate or forest. In double knit wool, the most important pieces are a wrap and tie top and long lean skirt. In silk jacquard there's a ladylike one-button coat and sheath in the new knee-skimming length.

MAGASCHONI's Bohemian Rhapsody group plays with an interesting juxtaposition of textures and fabrics. Metallic

wool pinstripes in prune, navy or burnt umber, offer a new twist to Fall's ubiquitous menswear dressing. Looking effortlessly chic are the herringbone crepe trousers with either MAG's cashmere or marled crepe twin sets.

SARASOLA's debut collection is a strong one. The emphasis is on imported fabrics like handpainted velvets, satin, Ultrasuede, rayon knits and wool flannels. Day or night his gray flannel shaped jacket, with peak lapels, and trousers is worn with a gray glittery pullover sweater. Buttery soft rayon/silk knits and "suedes" layer under dramatic faux fur

overcoats for country walks; while strictly city is Sarasola's ice blue satin topper with raglan, shutter-pleated sleeves, matching slim satin pants and a rayon knit swirl patterned sweater. Simply lovely and timeless is the patterned silk tunic with floating back panel atop tonal velvet pajamas.

GRUPPO AMERICANO has wonderful crepe suitings in warm honey and allspice. Gold top stitching emphasizes the gentle shaping of a one-button jacket and slim 21" skirt. A cream/honey long-sleeved tee and flared skirt in embroidered tulle with matte paillettes can



SARASOLA

work back. Also elegant are double-faced crepes in port and black, and the black/gold Lurex pinstripe components. After dark, a gold Lurex chenille jacquard frock coat tops a silk paisley brocade wrap vest and black velvet pants. A fabulous item, day or night, is the beaded crochet cardigan in gold with crystals or in moss with peridots. **ERIC GASKINS** juxtaposes clean shapes with luxurious fabrics such as coup de velour, crepe barathea with lace and panne velvet. Striking in the latter are his strapless and halter gowns in bronze/silver. In black barathea a one-shoulder gown features a delicate spider web lace insert.

The premise at **ET VOUS** is clean career dressing with just enough edge. The engineered, high notch collared jacket atop slim pants or side-slit skirt sets the mood. There are also some of the best coats, particularly a brushed cotton/Lycra reefer in camel or chocolate, and the fly-front wool/cashmere coat that looks great with faux leather jeans and a stretch charmeuse top. **BALDANZA's** Renaissance group is strong with 34mm sueded silk CDC components in peat moss, mahogany and black. There's a handsome engineered seamed coat and short jacket with a tucked front and back details. Next are bird's-eye jacquards, bi-stretch twill, moire, and matte jersey. A one-button faux snakeskin coat is a great item that works back to everything. For soft dressing options there are silk georgette florals and charmeuse bias stripes.

INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

JUNE 14-15 LOS ANGELES
SHOE SHOW

JUNE 19-21 FLORENCE
PITTI IMMAGINE BIMBO
(Childrenswear)

JUNE 25-28 FLORENCE
PITTI IMMAGINE UOMO
(Menswear)

JUNE 26-28
VALENCIA, SPAIN
FIFI (Childrenswear)

JUNE 28-30 MIAMI
FLORIDA SHOE MARKET

JUNE 28-JULY 3 MILAN
MENSWEAR DESIGNER SHOWS

JULY 3-7 PARIS
MENSWEAR DESIGNER SHOWS

JULY 4-6 PARIS
MODE ENFANTINE
(Childrenswear)

JULY 4-6 MILAN
PROGETTO INTIMO
(Intimate Apparel)

JULY 12-15 CHANTILLY, VA
WASHINGTON GIFT SHOW

JULY 13-14 LOS ANGELES
ISAM (Int'l Swimwear/Activewear)

JULY 14-16 LONDON
LONDON MEN'S FASHION WEEK
(Premiere Showing of Designer Collections)

JULY 15-18 HONG KONG
EUROPE SELECTION
(European Fashions)

JULY 18-21 NEW YORK
JA INT'L JEWELRY SHOW
(Fine Jewelry, Watches)

JULY 18-22 PARIS
WOMEN'S FALL COUTURE SHOWS

JULY 18-23 MIAMI
MIAMI SWIMWEAR SHOW

JULY 19-21 MIAMI
MEN'S & BOYS' MARKET

JULY 24-26 COLOGNE
HERREN MODE WOCHE/
INTERJEANS
(Young, Casual Menswear)

JULY 24-28 CHICAGO
CHICAGO GIFT SHOW

JULY 25-28 NEW YORK
EXCLUSIVE/EUROSTYLE
(Menswear)

JULY 26-28 NEW YORK
NYMS (Menswear)

JULY 26-28 NEW YORK
THE COLLECTIVE (Menswear)

JULY 27-31 NEW YORK
MENSWEAR DESIGNER SHOWS

PLEASE NOTE:
THESE DESIGNER GROUPS WILL
BE IN NEW YORK FOR
FALL SHOWINGS

AMERICAN DESIGNERS
AT THE WALDORF
FROM APRIL 14

DESIGNERS AT
THE ESSEX HOUSE
FROM APRIL 17

Tyler's slim, placket-front pantsuit with self-belted boxy jacket, and his light gray blouson jacket atop a slim skirt. After dark, Tyler pulls out all the stops with an iridescent crushed velvet jacket in dusty rose. This is worn over a silver embroidered chiffon tank and gray wool skirt, embroidered with a velvet leaf motif.

MONDI rethinks their approach this Fall with sleek, modern and sophisticated clothes. High-tech fabrics appear in lean silhouettes, while tone-on-tone Lurex adds lustre to knitwear. Bi-stretch faux leather feels like a second skin in jackets and skirts. More traditional are the stretch gabardine pinstripes and micro herringbones in vibrant colors. After dark, Mondì offers knit and velvet tunics over long beaded skirts, asymmetrical matte jersey gowns; knit tops over fluid charmeuse pants; and a dazzling backless gown with a gradation of beads in an ombre effect, in shades from ice to silver and jet.

Two collections that put the emphasis on femininity are **SOPHIE SITBON and LOLITA LEMPICA PREMIERE**. (The Showroom). Highlights from the former include a beading and embroidery story with shapely pinstriped suits, sexy crochet dresses, and devore velvets that have a wonderful lacy effect. Lempica likes faux fur collared little jackets and coats, a mix of wool flannels with animal prints, and long fuzzy sweaters worn over charming floral print camisoles and skirts or lace trimmed charmeuse slip dresses.

GENNY caters to the ladies who lunch with luxurious fabrics such as velvet, cashmere, lace and silk in soft neutral shades. There's a stunning gray glen plaid and solid gray group touched with black velvet, meant to work with cobweb-like lace tops. Summing up the mood of refinement is a simple gray sheath with velvet piping, touched with tiny rhinestone accents. A black cashmere sweater with black velvet trim and satin buttons replaces the traditional jacket. After dark, Genny pays homage to the Titanic era with retro-inspired caviar beaded black chiffon dresses with separate linings.

WHISTLES (Showroom Seven) has an extensive collection. Highlights here include the stretch wool gabardine, one-button elongated jacket and inverted pleat skirt in navy or black; a charcoal, brushed flannel reefer and sheath; the asymmetric linear dress in black, stretch satin-back crepe; and the pretty embroidered or beaded wool blend cardigans.

There's a mix of edgier technical pieces combined with classics at **GIANFRANCO FERRE (GFT)**. His graphic patterns appear in beautifully cut clothes. A khaki "Army" group has subtle military overtones in fabrics that cross over into menswear. Switching gears, Ferre turns to sexy brights like acid green, melon, red, and yellow in his "Punk Rich" group. The long double-breasted, shaped coat, in acid green, looks jazzy over a yellow wrap mini and a black stretch charmeuse turtleneck. **FERRE STUDIO** is aimed at career women who want to

express their individuality in a dramatic, feminine way. For day there are pinstriped suitings, and a chic black one-button coat, shown with a marled sweater and leather pants. Ferre also taps into the velvet craze with a surplice Empire wrap top in deep brown, worn with fluid crepe pants. Another evening dazzler pairs a copper beaded, brown chiffon side-slit dress, in the new longer length, with soft chiffon pants that are also partially beaded.

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